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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 9th, 11th, 14th, 21st and 41st meetings, from 3 to 5, and on 10, 12, 13 and 21 October and 15 November 2005. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 62 jointly with items 61 and 63. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.3/60/SR.1-5, 9, 11, 14, 21 and 41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7);

(b) Report on the World Social Situation, 2005 (A/60/117);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (A/60/128);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment (A/60/133 and Corr.1);

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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development (A/60/138);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (A/60/155);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on making commitments matter: young people's input to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/60/156);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century (A/60/290);

(i) Identical letters dated 24 August 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, transmitting the Declaration of the Doha International Conference on Ageing in View of Present-Day Changes (A/60/377-E/2005/92).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the representative of the United Nations Volunteers programme of the United Nations Development Programme (see A/C.3/60/SR.1).

5. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development and the representative of the United Nations Volunteers programme responded to a question posed by the representative of South Africa (see A/C.3/60/SR.1).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.3 and Rev.1

6. At the 11th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Australia, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Mexico, Myanmar, the Philippines and Timor-Leste, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities" (A/C.3/60/L.3). Subsequently, Mongolia and Indonesia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling also* its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons

with Disabilities, and resolution 58/132 of 22 December 2003, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

"*Recalling further* the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in September 2000 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome in September 2005 by heads of State and Government, stressing the need to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of incorporating the disability perspective in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

"*Noting with appreciation* the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, relevant sections of the Standard Rules and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to the questions of accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which reflect the strong commitment to the equalization of opportunities and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, including in the context of development,

"*Noting* that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, considers 'older persons and disabilities' as a specific issue for policy concern,

"*Recognizing* the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in preparing a draft text of the convention,

"*Acknowledging* the complementary contributions of all existing international frameworks on disability,

"*Aware of the fact* that there are at least six hundred million persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom approximately eighty per cent live in developing countries,

"*Recognizing* the important role of the World Programme of Action in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* that in many countries the prerequisites for achieving the purposes of the World Programme of Action are economic and social development, extended services provided to the whole population in the humanitarian area, the redistribution of resources and income and an improvement in the living standards of the population,

"*Acknowledging* the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

"*Noting with appreciation* the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences relating to persons with disabilities,

"*Mindful* of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels,

"*Recognizing* the importance of accessibility both of the physical environment and of information and communication in enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy fully their human rights and play an active part in the development of society,

"*Reiterating* that technology, in particular information and communication technologies, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, and stressing in this regard the importance of enhancing the transfer of technology among countries and technical and economic cooperation in the development and dissemination of appropriate disability-related technologies and know-how,

"*Recognizing* the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities, and welcoming the initiatives of various United Nations agencies and regional groups in the area of collection of disability-related data and information,

"*Recognizing also* the need to address the challenge of better incorporating the disability perspective in development and technical cooperation activities,

"*Recognizing further* the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide through the enhancement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and by ensuring that the benefits of development programmes also reach them,

"*Recognizing* that because the vast majority of persons with disabilities continue to be left out of development and dispossessed of their basic human rights, the impact of poverty on the conditions of persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, should be given prominent consideration in the elaboration of national and international development strategies,

"*Expressing grave concern* that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, including his recommendations to mainstream the disability perspective in United Nations international and national development

frameworks and to consider the effective synergy in monitoring the implementation of the existing international frameworks on disability;

"2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the equalization of opportunities for, persons with disabilities, and encourages her to continue her work, bearing in mind the background of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"3. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

"4. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote effective measures for the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of persons with disability, as elaborated in the World Programme of Action;

"5. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, within their responsibilities and mandates, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream the disability perspective into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

"6. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities, that contribute to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

"7. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

"8. *Urges* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the development agencies and funds, relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities, as appropriate, and to continue to work closely with the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including in activities at the field level;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of improving data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in compliance with national legislation on the protection of personal data, so that they can be compared internationally and domestically

for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective, urges Governments, in this regard, to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continuing development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems;

"10. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to persons with disabilities from marginalized sectors of society, in particular women and children with disabilities, who may be vulnerable to multiple or aggravating forms of discrimination, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their full enjoyment of all human rights;

"11. *Urges* Governments to address the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to all actions taken to implement existing human rights treaties to which they are parties and in efforts taken towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

"12. *Invites* Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with a view to the early conclusion of a draft text of a convention, in order to present it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for its adoption;

"13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities, as well as efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

"15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the global implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, with respect to overall efforts being taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including possible options to improve the complementarity and synergy in the

implementation of the World Programme of Action and other United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments, taking into account the strengths and main elements of the World Programme of Action as well as its important role in providing policy guidelines for States."

7. Also at the 11th meeting, the representative of the Philippines orally revised the text and announced that those revisions would be included in a revised text.

8. At its 21st meeting, on 21 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/60/L.3/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.3 and Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. At the 21st meeting, the representative of the Philippines orally revised the text by replacing the word "work" in the seventh preambular paragraph by the word "progress".

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.3/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution I).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.3/60/SR.21).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.4

13. At the 11th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Benin, Brazil, China, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Philippines, Senegal, the Sudan, Switzerland and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/60/L.4). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Djibouti, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Panama, South Africa, Timor-Leste and Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "five-year" before the word "reviews" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the words "and requirements" were inserted after the words "administrative provisions";

(c) In operative paragraph 4, the words "five-year" before the word "reviews" were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 4, subparagraph (c), the words "inter alia" were inserted before the word "through joint consultative councils".

15. At its 14th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.6 and Rev.1

17. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" (A/C.3/60/L.6). Belarus joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/147 of 20 December 2004 and 59/111 of 6 December 2004 concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family, the preparations for observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

"*Noting* that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

"*Cognizant* that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 provided an impetus for integrating family concerns into the national development planning process,

"*Aware* that the basic objective of the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is to support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

"*Recognizing* the need to assist families in their supporting, educating and nurturing roles in contributing to social integration,

"*Convinced* of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family beyond 2004,

"*Recognizing* the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in promoting international cooperation by ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the family field,

"*Cognizant* of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

"*Recognizing* that civil society, including research and academic institutions, have a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research, and policymaking in respect of family policy development,

"*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond,

"1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into policymaking;

"2. *Invites* Governments to maintain the national coordination mechanisms established or revitalized during the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to coordinate policies, programmes and strategies in order to bring about positive transformations by integrating family issues into national development planning;

"3. *Recommends* that Governments, in cooperation with concerned academic and research centres as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, encourage action-oriented research that addresses public policies with a family perspective, utilizing participatory methodologies and techniques to elaborate priority issues and needs of families;

"4. *Also recommends* that the research activities of Governments be supplemented with research and publications on relevant topics conducted and supported by the United Nations programme on the family;

"5. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on the Family to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

"6. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and in their follow-up processes;

"7. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment for all families regardless of sex, age, status or disability, with particular attention to the rights of women and girls;

"8. *Encourages* continued and increased inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on family-related issues, and encourages the

programmes, funds and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to identify focal points on family matters within their offices;

"9. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to the development of strategies, policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

"10. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to continue its important role on family issues within the United Nations system, and in this regard encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to continue cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family;

"11. *Calls upon* Member States to undertake a review of the role and functions of existing national machineries for the family with respect to the integration of the family issue into national development, and in this regard invites the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support national efforts, upon request;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled 'Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family'."

18. At its 41st meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/60/L.6/Rev.1), submitted by Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation. Subsequently, Armenia and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

20. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.6/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution III).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Canada, also on behalf of Norway and Switzerland (see A/C.3/60/SR.41).

22. A statement was also made by the representative of Australia (see A/C.3/60/SR.41).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.7

23. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Pakistan,

Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers" (A/C.3/60/L.7). Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Fiji, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. At its 14th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.7 without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

26. At its 41st meeting, on 15 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following reports (see para. 28):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Social Situation, 2005 (A/60/117);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment (A/60/133 and Corr.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on making commitments matter: young people's input to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/60/156).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

27. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and resolution 58/132 of 22 December 2003, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling further the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] on 8 September 2000, and of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] on 16 September 2005, by Heads of State and Government, stressing the need to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of incorporating the disability perspective in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules and relevant resolutions that give special attention to the questions of accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which reflect the strong commitment to the equalization of opportunities, the rights of persons with disabilities and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, including in the context of development,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[3] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

Noting that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[6] considers "older persons and disabilities" as a specific issue for policy concern,

Welcoming the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in preparing a draft text of the convention,

Acknowledging the complementary contributions of all existing international frameworks on disability,

Aware of the fact that there are at least 600 million persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom approximately 80 per cent live in developing countries,

Recognizing the important role of the World Programme of Action in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the achievement of the purposes of the World Programme of Action is congruent with economic and social development, extended services provided to the whole population in the humanitarian area, the redistribution of resources and income and an improvement in the living standards of the population,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences relating to persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies in all Member States, United Nations agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and regional commissions of the United Nations to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels,

Recognizing the importance of accessibility both of the physical environment and of information and communication in enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy fully their human rights and to play an active part in the development of society,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communication technologies, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, stressing in this regard the importance of enhancing cooperation among countries for the transfer of technology and technical and economic cooperation in the development and dissemination of appropriate disability-related technologies and know-how, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions from regional groups in promoting information and

[6] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

communication technologies as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities, and welcoming the initiatives of various United Nations agencies and regional groups in the area of collection of disability-related data and information,

Recognizing also the need to address the challenge of better incorporating the disability perspective in development and technical cooperation activities,

Recognizing further the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide through the enhancement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and by ensuring that the benefits of development programmes also reach them,

Recognizing that because the vast majority of persons with disabilities continue to be excluded from the benefits of development and denied the full and equal recognition and enjoyment of their human rights, the impact of poverty on the conditions of persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, should be given prominent consideration in the elaboration of national and international development strategies,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, including his recommendations to mainstream the disability perspective in United Nations international and national development frameworks and to consider the effective synergy in monitoring the implementation of the existing international frameworks on disability;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the equalization of opportunities for, persons with disabilities, and encourages her to continue her work, bearing in mind the background of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[3]

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for persons with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

4. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote effective measures, as elaborated in the World Programme of Action, for the prevention of disability and the provision of appropriate

[7] A/60/290.

habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in a manner respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities;

5. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream the disability perspective into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

6. *Encourages* Governments to continue and to strengthen their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities, that contribute to the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

8. *Urges* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the development agencies and funds, relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities, as appropriate, and to continue to work closely with the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including in activities at the field level;

9. *Stresses* the importance of improving data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in compliance with national legislation on the protection of personal data, so that they can be compared internationally and domestically for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective, urges Governments, in this regard, to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continuing development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems;

10. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to persons with disabilities from marginalized sectors of society, who may be vulnerable to multiple, intersecting or aggravating forms of discrimination, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their full enjoyment of all human rights;

11. *Urges* Governments to address the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to all actions taken to implement existing human rights treaties to which they are parties and in efforts taken towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

12. *Invites* Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with a view to the early conclusion of a draft text of the

convention, in order to present it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for its adoption;

13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities, as well as efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide an accessible environment;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, on the global implementation of the World Programme of Action, with respect to overall efforts being made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, also including in the report possible options to improve the complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the World Programme of Action and other United Nations disability mechanisms and instruments, taking into account the strengths and main elements of the World Programme of Action as well as its important role in providing policy guidelines for States.

Draft resolution II
Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996, 54/123 of 17 December 1999, 56/114 of 19 December 2001 and 58/131 of 22 December 2003 concerning cooperatives in social development,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and their reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Draws the attention* of Member States to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for further action to promote the greater participation of cooperatives in poverty reduction, in particular in the design, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

3. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions and requirements governing the activities of cooperatives in order to enhance the growth and sustainability of cooperatives in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment, to broaden and deepen the outreach of cooperatives among the poor, in particular those in rural areas or in the agricultural sector, and to promote the participation of women and vulnerable groups in cooperatives across all sectors;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and their reviews, the World Food Summit, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

[1] A/60/138.

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement, inter alia, through joint consultative councils and/or advisory bodies and by promoting and implementing better legislation, training, research, sharing of good practices and human resources development;

(d) Taking steps to improve the collection and dissemination of information and data on the role of cooperatives in poverty reduction and their contribution to social and economic development;

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes aimed at enhancing capacity-building of cooperatives, including by strengthening the organizational, management and financial skills of their members, and to introduce and support programmes to improve the access of cooperatives to new technologies;

6. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, to continue to provide assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing on the role of cooperatives in promoting full and productive employment.

Draft resolution III
Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004 and 59/147 of 20 December 2004 concerning the proclamation of the International Year of the Family, and the preparations for, observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Noting that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/111 and paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/147, respectively, the General Assembly underlined the need to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues,

Noting also that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Cognizant that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 provided an impetus for integrating family concerns into the national development planning process,

Aware that the basic objective of the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is to support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

Recognizing the need to assist families in their supporting, educating and nurturing roles in contributing to social integration,

Convinced of the necessity of ensuring an action-oriented follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family beyond 2004,

Recognizing the important catalytic and supportive role of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions in promoting international cooperation by ensuring an action-oriented follow-up in the field of the family,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research, and policymaking in respect of family policy development,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond,[1]

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and to integrate a family perspective into policymaking;

2. *Invites* Governments to maintain the national coordination mechanisms established or revitalized during the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to coordinate policies, programmes and strategies in order to bring about positive transformations by integrating family issues into national development planning;

3. *Recommends* that Governments, in cooperation with concerned academic and research centres as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, encourage action-oriented research that addresses public policies with a family perspective and contributes to the development of strategies, policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families, and encourages the United Nations programme on the family to support and conduct action-oriented research, including through the issuance of research and publications on relevant topics, with the aim of supplementing the research activities of Governments;

4. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

5. *Urges* States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and in their follow-up processes;

6. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of the reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

7. *Encourages* continued and increased inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on family-related issues, and encourages the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to identify focal points on family matters within their offices to support the integration of family issues in their work;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to continue its important role on family issues within the United Nations system, and in this regard encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family;

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[1] A/60/155.

9. *Invites* Member States to undertake a review of the role and functions of existing national machineries for the family in order to better integrate family issues into national development programmes;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

11. *Decides* to consider the topic "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-second session under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

Draft resolution IV
Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/106 of 26 November 2002, on the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of volunteering, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, to economic and social development, benefiting society at large, communities and the individual volunteer,

Recognizing also that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and management and social integration and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Noting with appreciation the efforts to increase understanding and awareness of volunteerism through research, global information-sharing and education, including efforts to develop an effective network for volunteers through, inter alia, the World Volunteer Web[1] and linked national sites,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to supporting volunteering, including the work of United Nations Volunteers around the world,

Bearing in mind the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General ;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General in response to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations;[3]

3. *Welcomes* the hosting of the first International Conference on Volunteerism and the Millennium Development Goals, organized jointly by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations system and held in Islamabad from 5 to 7 December 2004, and takes note of its final report;[1]

4. *Reiterates its call upon* Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, to observe 5 December as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development and to include activities, in particular on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism as an issue that involves and benefits all segments of society, including children, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and immigrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

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[1] http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org.
[2] A/60/128.
[3] A/59/354.

6. *Recognizes* that volunteering, in particular at the community level, will help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[4]

7. *Also recognizes* the importance of supportive legislative and fiscal frameworks for the growth and development of volunteerism, and encourages Governments to enact such measures;

8. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers, and requests them to continue their efforts, together with other stakeholders, to raise awareness of volunteerism, increase reference and networking resources available, provide technical cooperation to developing countries, upon their request, in the field of volunteerism and enhance coordination among those operating on the ground;

9. *Invites* all stakeholders, especially from the private sector community and from private foundations, to support volunteerism as a strategic tool to enhance economic and social development, including by expanding corporate volunteering;

10. *Calls for* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, and encourages the recognition and inclusion of volunteer contributions in future United Nations and other relevant international conferences;

11. *Acknowledges* the importance of civil society organizations for the promotion of volunteerism, and in this respect recognizes that strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

12. *Encourages* Governments to establish partnerships with civil society in order to build up volunteer potential at the national level, given the important contribution that volunteerism makes to the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

13. *Recognizes* the increasing attention being given to the economic dimension of volunteerism, and encourages Governments, with the support of civil society, to build up a knowledge base on the subject, to disseminate data and to expand research on other volunteer-related issues, including in developing countries;

14. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers in building up the capacity of the World Volunteer Web[1] with a view to enhancing network capabilities and to expanding information, knowledge and resource management, and encourages Governments and all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute on a voluntary basis to this initiative;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and to include in the report proposals regarding possible ways to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011.

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[4] See resolution 55/2.

28. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2005;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Social Situation, 2005;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment (A/60/133 and Corr.1);[3]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on making commitments matter: young people's input to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.[4]

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[1] A/60/61-E/2005/7.

[2] A/60/117.

[3] A/60/133 and Corr.1

[4] A/60/156.